CHEMICAL CONTROL OF ARGENTINE ANTS
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BACKGROUND

Know the jargon of chemical control:

- **Contact insecticide**: A poison that must contact the body of the insect to be controlled.
- **Bait insecticide**: A bait insecticide combines an ant attractive food source with an insecticide.
- **Barriers**: Chemicals applied around structures to prevent ants from entering them.
- **Repellents**: These help in keeping those areas free of ants which are particularly attractive to them such as kitchen and trash cans.

Active ingredient (a.i.): It is that part of the product that actually does what the product is designed to do.

OUTDOOR ANT CONTROL

Before starting outdoor control with chemicals:

- Remove any object that might serve as a colonizing structure for ants. These include wooden boards, rocks, construction material, etc. Clear your yard of junk!!
- Avoid excessive watering of lawns and flower beds as these ants love moist conditions.
- Do not allow excessive vegetation to grow near your house as it acts as a perfect hiding place for them.
- Eliminating this ant species is an area-wide effort and so whole communities should come together and work as a group. It is very important that everyone works together.

Chemicals for controlling Argentine ants:

- **CYPERMETHRIN**: It is a pyrethroid and works by quickly affecting the ant’s central nervous system which results in its death. Insecticides containing cypermethrin:
  - **Cynoff EC**: (active ingredients is Cypermethrin 24.8%). It is an odorless liquid insecticide concentrate and leaves no visible residue. Use half of one ounce per gallon and each quart of Cynoff EC will make about 64 gallons of solution. [http://www.pestproducts.com/cynoff.htm](http://www.pestproducts.com/cynoff.htm)
  - **Demon EC**: (a.i. is Cypermethrin 25.3%). It is a low odor liquid concentrate which leaves no visible residue. Use half to one ounce per gallon. Each pint will make 32 gallons of solution. [http://www.pestproducts.com/pesticides.htm#EC](http://www.pestproducts.com/pesticides.htm#EC)
- **CHLORPYRIFOS**: It is an organophosphate insecticide that targets the nervous system of Argentine ant. This is being phased out of the market.

- **CYFLUTHRIN**: Like cypermethrin it is also a pyrethroid and acts in similar manner. Bayer Advanced Home Indoor and Outside Insect Killer can be used to control Argentine ants.

Some commercially available baits are:

- Some boric acid baits available in market: Terro® Ant Killer, Drax Ant Kill Gel®, Drax Ant Kill pf. Detailed information about these products can be obtained by typing the product name in Google Search Engine.
- **Demon EC**
  - [www.pestproducts.com/cypermethrin.htm](http://www.pestproducts.com/cypermethrin.htm)
- **Cynoff EC**
  - [www.pestproducts.com/cynoff_ec.html](http://www.pestproducts.com/cynoff_ec.html)

ALSO KEEP IN MIND TO:

- Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Follow all directions, precautions and restrictions that are listed.
- Never dump unused chemicals in a place where they could become a potential hazard such ponds, streams, parks, etc.
- Always use protective clothing and eyewear while applying chemicals.
- Do not eat, drink and smoke while applying insecticides.
- Store unused chemicals in a place where children and pets can’t find them.
- Chemical control works best when all the people in a particular locality undertake the task together.

REFERENCES CITED